

TIPPING CRUSADE GETS BAD START

Hotel Men Refuse to Help Anti-Tip Movement and Say Public

Yesterday was the day set for the beginning of the great country wide crusade against tipping. Thousands of men all over the country, if those in charge of the movement are accurate in their estimates were to forswear gratuities and submit themselves to all kinds of indignities and discomforts if necessary in the war to wipe out the tipping graft.

Perhaps it was the holiday spirit; perhaps it was the natural sympathy of new Yorkers; perhaps it was the position to tipping is not as great here as in other parts of the country, but the fact remains that the waiters, bellboys, valets and other employees of the city found no marked diminution in their incomes at the close of the day.

Mr. Bows, of the National League of Commercial Travelers, who started the movement in the West and set yesterday for the beginning of the crusade in the East, said that one day would not tell the tale. He said that he would lead the parade, "to bring out a streak of the movement." As the number of men who make the resolution not to tip increased, he said, he would increase the size of the parade until the hotels and restaurant proprietors were obliged to pay higher salaries to their employees if they are to keep them. It was learned yesterday that the parade would be held.

The hotel men, it was learned yesterday, were not at all alarmed by the proposal that they help the anti-tipping fight by increasing wages and have decided that they cannot afford to do it. "The hotel men are not going to be a booker," said yesterday that he thought the strength of the movement against tipping had been greatly exaggerated.

"But whether I have or not," he added, "the hotel must not increase the wages of waiters and other attendants, for the simple reason that they cannot afford to do it. We are paying all our waiters a handsome salary. I do not want to tip them too heavily, but so far as I can see, persons in this city are more anxious to tip than not to."

John L. Murray, the restaurant and hotel man, described the tipping system yesterday. Mr. Murray said the restaurant men of this city had all talked the matter over and had decided that there was no fault to be found with the tipping system. At one time, he said, a system of what is known as "pay men" had been considered. These are men who keep moving about the restaurant and on a signal from the waiter, receive the check from the patron, pay the bill, receive the money from the patron, pay the check and return the change. In this way the waiter is eliminated from the transaction. "But," he said, "the customer may leave as much or as little on the table as he likes without any immediate uncomfortable result."

"The thing has no strength," said Mr. Murray. "Persons like to give tips when they have received good service, and they would give them if we doubled or tripled the wages of our waiters. No one has ever objected to the movement. It was a lot of commercial travellers. It is laughable to think of commercial travellers in such a thing. Why, these men want more for their money than I want for mine. I have more waiters than any other class of visitors."

Complaints About Hat Boys.

"We hear most complaint about the hat boys. Well, I do not see why there should be any complaint. In the first place the hat boys are not the cause of the trouble. I cannot afford to allow persons to come in with hats and coats. I cannot put hooks on my walls for coats and hats. I cannot have a coat rack in the lobby because of the beauty of my establishment. Again, if I do allow hats and coats on chairs the waiters are bound to spill soup or something else on them some of the time, and I have to pay for the cleaning. "The hat boy up is the smallest tip in the world. A nickel or a dime is all he expects and usually all he gets. I have had the hat boys ask for a dollar. I have had them ask for money at the end of a day's work, showing that some people, knowing they do not look at their fees, have given them a cent for their services. "The return for these small fees a man or woman has his or her valuable clothing taken care of and brushed. The hat man is responsible up to \$500 for any damage to a hat. The coat man is responsible, but he is constantly being victimized

A HERALD reporter talked to waiters, bell boys and hat boys in fifteen hotels and restaurants in this city yesterday, and could find none who reported any diminution of tips because of the much heralded crusade which was to have begun yesterday.

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